

## IN A MODEL CITY

Direct Evidence of English Rule in Hong Kong.

City is Built on Slope of High Hill. Some Expenses of the Government.

[Special Correspondence.]

EDITOR P. C. A.:—We have spent five busy days in this bustling crowded place. Imagine a peak six times as high as Punchbowl, and a strip of land at its base one-sixtieth of the distance from the wharf to the foot of Punchbowl; and you will have some idea of the situation of Hong Kong. How it ever entered into anyone's mind to build on such a site a great commercial mart, I cannot conceive. But money and labor will accomplish wonders. For homes, the hill sides have been cut and levelled; roads cut on the face of the cliff; a wire-rope tramway runs up the precipitous front, while for warehouses and stores and offices, the granite of the hill sides has been hewn into blocks and built up into a sea wall, and earth brought down to fill out a level area to erect solid granite structures, four and five stories high. The streets are not wide, and the lowest floor of the numerous balconies, or verandahs, forms an arcade which is in fact the sidewalk for pedestrians. This style of architecture, straight up and down, seems a pile of oblong cells, much as the cliff dwellers of Arizona and New Mexico seem to have built. When Stephens' "Travels in Arabia Petra" was first published, I was fascinated by his description of Petra, with its homes and temples and shops; but Hong Kong is a romance in stone of modern commercial enterprise.

On either end of it are the Chinese quarters with the characteristics peculiar to such places. But let no one who has seen simply Chinese quarters imagine he has seen a Chinese city. One must go to Canton to get any idea of what a Chinese city is. Hong Kong is under English rule. It is a depot for sailors and soldiers, and like every garrison city with its gay-coated officers, the ladies of the place must not be behind in display of color and form. But England has also a state religion, and wherever an Englishman goes he is not ashamed of his religion. Here is a fine cathedral for an English Bishop "in paribus infidelium," a Presbyterian church with an earnest preacher of very decided convictions, and an M. E. Chapel. Why do not our American merchants in foreign lands exert some positive religious influence as do our English brethren? There are many romantic walks and rides around Hong Kong. Some places are inaccessible to the jinrikisha, and people must go in chairs, borne by two, three, or four coolies. They are very comfortable, unless one has before him, as we did in Canton the half starved form of a brother man, with neck galled and calloused from the heavy burden bearing of the daily toll. There is a difference in the jinrikishas in different localities. Those for common hire here are not so much ornamented as elsewhere; but they are very roomy, and the Chinaman runs close to the body of the vehicle, which has iron prongs behind so that it cannot tip backward. The regulation fares are too low, and every ride ends with an altercation with the coolies, demanding more than the pittance allowed by statute.

The first afternoon, the day of our arrival, we went to the peak by the tramway. It was a weird sensation to be held suspended in mid-height, looking down on the houses dotting the hill side, and seeming to tip inward. But the view over the city and bay, as one ascends, is perfectly entrancing, and the ride altogether too short to satisfy the gaze of the enraptured spectator. One of the unexpected incidents, that add to the pleasures of travel, befell us on this trip. Everybody that left our tram car took chairs and started off in the same direction. We followed on, our coolies asking no questions, and we giving no directions. At last only one party was before us, and from the direction they took it was evident that they were not going to the peak. They stopped and we stopped. When they entered the building, too large for an ordinary residence, we entered too, and found ourselves in the Peak Sanitarium, a private hospital. But the lady in charge received us most graciously, insisted on serving us with a cup of tea with the most dainty accompaniment, and then kindly directed the coolies to take us where we wanted to go.

The top of the peak has been levelled and is laid out as a flower garden, while in the sheltered side is quite an aviary. Many of the strange and beautiful birds from the islands of Borneo and New Guinea were kept in this aviary with its wire netting so that they had abundant room to fly about. All this is done by private subscription, for Hong Kong's merchant princes are public spirited men; and supplement the large public expenditures by generous gifts for public purposes. It takes \$2,343,730 to meet the annual expenses of governmental administration for this city of 350,000 people. It seems incredible that so large a population can find house-room in such narrow limits; but the houses are very high, and we know the ability of the Chinese to pack themselves away like herrings.

There is a circular pavilion, in classic style of architecture, at the summit of the peak, and the view over the island and its surrounding waters is like that from Tantalus. One looks down on these granite billows,

and the two square miles of anchorage with its floating craft of all shapes and sizes and nationalities, and sees, not only the beauties of the landscape, but the indications of the greatness of England, "Sovereign of the Seas," ruling from far off London with beneficent sway these waters on the coast of China, that vast Empire of unknown resources, whose unnumbered millions do so much of mere drudgery without any outlook over the wide world, and little influence in shaping the destinies of mankind.

Hong Kong has a despicable climate, lying as it does on the north easterly side of the precipitous hill side, exposed to the full intensity of the sun's rays. Though in the same latitude as Honolulu, Iampico, Cape Verde islands, its situation forbids such perfection of climate as we have in Honolulu. In fact, between the two extreme limits of our travels, Hong Kong on the south, and Tokyo on the north, lying in the same latitude with San Francisco and Richmond, we have found no climate to compare in pleasantness with our Honolulu temperature.

We have been travelling all this time in silver money countries, and I cannot say that I have any very high opinion of cheap money. On my letter of credit for gold at San Francisco, I drew twice the amount in silver, and a premium beyond that that varies from one per cent. to five. At Nagasaki, however, the Bank not only gave me no premium for the gold draft, but showed their own notes, giving only 92 cents Japanese currency on the dollar note. It is very difficult to do any business, with such a fluctuating currency value, and calculate what the profits will be at the end of the year. What if the Governor of Hong Kong has a salary of \$32,000; the Chief Justice \$12,000; the Attorney-General \$7,800; these figures must be halved to get their gold value. For such men as engineers, who have families in the home land to support, and must make their remittances in gold, the value of their wages is steadily decreasing as silver goes down the scale. The cost of living, however, keeps steadily rising, as wages and provisions slowly rise to meet the increasing depreciation of the currency of the country.

H. Hong Kong, Oct. 27, 1897.

### GOLD AND BLOOD.

Many years ago I knew a man who expended a great part of a large fortune in buying gold, in coin and in bars. This he melted, and with human blood and other unique ingredients, labored secretly to prepare a mixture that should arrest all disease, renew vitality and prolong life indefinitely. I need hardly say that he failed. Not only did he fail, but one day an explosion took place in his laboratory which destroyed the fruits of his toil and left him senseless and badly wounded amid the wreck. The rest of his days were passed in an asylum.

Yet he was not the first man who tried that same experiment, not by thousands. To find the elixir of life was one of the main purposes of the science of alchemy, the barbaric ancestor of the modern science of chemistry. But all that is now discredited. No doctor or student of healing even pretends to possess or to seek an essence of life.

What is undertaken, however, and successfully, is to ascertain the truth about nature's functions, and to help her perform them when they are impeded by disease. Illustrations of what can be done on this line are plentiful. Here is one: "Twelve years ago," says Mrs. Eliza Matcham, of Armitage House, Sutton-on-Hull, "I had an attack of rheumatic fever. At the same time I had a bad taste in the mouth, poor appetite, and pain and weight at the chest after eating. I frequently spat up a quantity of greasy, fatty matter. Later I was afflicted with rheumatism in my hands and feet. Then I fell into a state of debility which continued year after year. I spent a great deal of money in doctoring, all to no purpose. Finally I was induced to try your medicine. In a short time my food agreed with me, the sickness ceased, I grew stronger, and the rheumatism by degrees abated. Now by taking your remedy occasionally I keep in good health. (Signed) MRS. ELIZA MATCHAM, June 2, 1893."

"For some time previous to 1887," writes another, "I was troubled with a digestive disorder. In the autumn of that year (1887) I got a severe cold, which brought on rheumatism and humbug. I had great pain in the back and also in the joints. I consulted a doctor, who gave me medicines, and advised me to go to Buxton. I did so, but I am bound to say obtained little benefit from it."

"In January, 1888, I had another attack of rheumatic fever, which brought me down into a very low and feeble condition. For days and days together I was unable to eat or sleep. It was only by hardship and pain that I got about at all. Whilst on a visit to Little Downham, Cambridgeshire, some friends told me of the medicine furnished by you. I used it, and soon found relief and gained strength. Cheered up and encouraged by this I continued taking it, and now, by an occasional dose, I keep wholly free from rheumatism and other troubles. (Signed) PHILIP HOPKIN, 20, Maude Street, Grimsby, November 14, 1892."

The eccentric man alluded to in the first part of this article failed to cure any disease with his odd brew. It was costly, too, as I said. Blood is cheap enough, but bars of gold come high. He was a fanatic and a fool.

But here we have two instances in which rheumatism, a common and dangerous ailment, was cured by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, a remedy made not from blood and gold, but from the healing herbs of the fields and forests. And why was it cured thus so speedily and with such seeming ease? Because rheumatism is not a disease of itself, but a symptom of indigestion and dyspepsia. It is this universal plague that the Syrup scatters and drives away, its children following after. Thus we keep our blood in our veins and our gold—if we have any—in our pockets.



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